

Senate Resolution 453

By: Senators Brass of the 28th, Ginn of the 47th, Wilkinson of the 50th, Mullis of the 53rd and Dugan of the 30th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commending the Georgia Golf Course Superintendents Association for the development of
- 2 the Best Management Practices for Georgia Golf Courses; and for other purposes.
- 3 WHEREAS, the development of the Best Management Practices for Georgia Golf Courses
- 4 was made possible by superintendents in the State of Georgia, the Georgia Golf Course
- 5 Superintendents Association, and turfgrass scientists at the University of Georgia; and
- 6 WHEREAS, funding and support of this project were made possible with grants from the
- 7 Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and with materials from the
- 8 Best Management Practices Template developed by GCSAA with funding from the
- 9 Environmental Institute for Golf and the United States Golf Association; and
- 10 WHEREAS, with around 800 members, the Georgia Golf Course Superintendents
- 11 Association is one of the largest affiliated chapters of the GCSAA; the association and its
- 12 members enhance the game of golf and the golf course management profession through
- 13 education, environmental stewardship, and advocacy; and
- 14 WHEREAS, Georgia's nearly 400 golf courses are, on average, 96 percent recreational open
- 15 spaces of grasslands, woods, or water bodies; these lands are functionally excellent at
- 16 harvesting and storing water that falls on them, eliminating or reducing erosion, sequestering
- 17 carbon and nitrogen, and improving the physical properties of soils; and
- 18 WHEREAS, these green spaces are biologically diverse habitats for plants and animals,
- 19 ranging from large native species to soil microorganisms; and
- 20 WHEREAS, Georgia golf courses host an industry that generates significant economic
- 21 benefit; in Georgia, golf drives \$2.4 billion in economic impact every year and supports
- 22 nearly 57,000 jobs; and

23 WHEREAS, through televised tournaments and championships, such as The Masters
24 Tournament at Augusta National Golf Club and the PGA Tour Championship at East Lake
25 Golf Club, the game draws enormous national and international interest in, and visitation to,
26 the State of Georgia; and

27 WHEREAS, today's superintendents draw on more environmental science than any
28 generation before them; their training included biological sciences, chemistry, horticulture,
29 soils, environmental sciences, and many related disciplines, uniquely qualifying them for
30 their duties; and

31 WHEREAS, carefully adopted best management practices can potentially improve the
32 financial sustainability of golf courses, as well as environmental sustainability; these methods
33 and techniques are found to be the most effective and practical means of achieving an
34 objective, such as preventing water quality impacts or reducing pesticide usage; and

35 WHEREAS, pesticide best management practices provide the necessary guidance for the
36 proper transport, storing, mixing, and application of pesticides to address target pests and
37 minimize impacts to nontarget species; design and construction best management practices
38 and storm-water best management practices address the potential for erosion and
39 sedimentation and ways to mitigate that potential; and

40 WHEREAS, the design and maintenance of irrigation systems, as well as proper irrigation
41 scheduling, careful selection of turfgrass cultivars, and incorporation of cultural practices that
42 increase the water-holding capacity of soil are addressed through these best management
43 practices.

44 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
45 commend the Georgia Golf Course Superintendents Association for the development of the
46 Best Management Practices for Georgia Golf Courses.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
48 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the Georgia Golf
49 Course Superintendents Association.